

In the Claims:

1. (previously presented) A method for generating a video image of an object comprising the steps of:

generating video data representing video frames for forming the video image of said object;

processing said video data by:

dividing each video frame into a plurality of regions, each region being representative of a portion of said object, at least one of said plurality of regions being predetermined at least one of said plurality of regions and the other of said plurality of regions being remaining ones of said plurality of regions;

selecting said predetermined at least one of said plurality of regions of the video frame;

de-emphasising said remaining ones of the plurality of regions of the video frame;

transmitting video data indicative of said selected at least predetermined one and said remaining ones of the plurality of regions of said video frames to a receiver having a display for displaying said display video image. and

recombining said regions of each of said video frames to form a display video, said recombining step comprising forming a display video image in which the selected region of the video frame is sharp or well-defined, and remaining ones of the plurality of regions of the video frame are de-emphasised or blurred in accordance with the relative distance

between the portion of said object in a remaining one of the plurality of regions respective region of said object and a reference point.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said step of selecting said region comprises selecting a region defining a foreground object.

4. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said step of selecting said region comprises an observer selecting a region of the object.

5. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said step of selecting said region comprises selecting a region of said video frame according to the position of an object relative to at least one other object.

6. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said step of selecting said region comprises selecting a region of said video frame defining an active entity.

7. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said step of dividing said video image into a plurality of regions comprises dividing said video image into a plurality of regions each defining a focal plane.

8. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the step of dividing said video image into a plurality of regions each defining a focal plane comprises dividing said video image into regions wherein each focal plane is representative of a different distance between a respective portion of said object and said reference point.

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said step of selecting at least a predetermined one of said plurality of regions comprises de-emphasising remaining portions of said video image according to the distance between a respective portion of said object and said reference point.

11. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said step of de-emphasising remaining portions of said video image comprises applying greater de-emphasis to regions of the video image that are representative of portions of the object having a greater distance between the respective portion of said object and said reference point than regions of the video image that are representative of portions of the object having a smaller distance between the respective portion of the object and the reference point.

12. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising; artificially generating each remaining region of the video image.

13. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said step of generating video data comprises monitoring an object with a video camera to produce one or more video frames.

14. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the step of displaying said video image comprises displaying said video frame such that remaining regions of the display video image are less sharp in accordance with the relative distance between said respective portion of said object and said video camera.

15. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said step of generating video data comprises generating a sequence of video frames, and said step of displaying said display video image comprises displaying a sequence of video frames.

16. (previously presented) A system for generating a video image of an object comprising;

circuitry for generating video data representing video frames for forming the video image of said object;

circuitry for dividing each video frame into a plurality of regions such that each region is representative of a portion of said object, at least one of said plurality of regions being predetermined at least one of said plurality of regions and the other of said plurality of regions being remaining ones of said plurality of regions; and

means for selecting said at least one of said plurality of predetermined regions from said received video data;

circuitry for recombining said regions of each of said video frames to form a display video image; and

a display for displaying said video frames of said display video image such that said selected region is formed as a sharp image, and remaining regions of said display video image are less sharp in accordance with the relative distance between said respective portion of said object and a reference point.

17 (canceled)

18. (previously presented) The system as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said means for selecting are arranged to select a region defining a foreground object.

19. (previously presented) The system as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said means for selecting are arranged such that an observer can select a region of the monitored object.

20. (previously presented) The system as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said means for selecting are arranged to select a region of said video frame according to the position of an object relative to at least one other object.

21. (previously presented) The system as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said means for selecting are arranged to select a region of said video frame defining an active entity.

22. (previously presented) The system as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said circuitry for dividing said video image into a plurality of regions is arranged for dividing said video image into a plurality of regions each defining a focal plane.

23. (previously presented) The system as claimed in Claim 22, wherein said circuitry for dividing said video image into a plurality of regions each defining a focal plane is arranged for dividing said video image into regions wherein each focal plane is representative of a different distance between a respective portion of said object and said reference point.

24. (previously presented) The system as claimed in Claim 23 further comprising; circuitry for de-emphasizing remaining regions of said display video image.

25. (previously presented) The system as claimed in Claim 24, wherein said de-emphasising circuitry is arranged for de-emphasising remaining portions of said video image according to the distance between a respective portion of said object and said reference point.

26. (previously presented) The system as claimed in Claim 25, wherein de-emphasising circuitry is arranged for applying greater de-emphasis to regions of the video image that are representative of portions of the object having a greater distance between the respective portion of said object and said reference point than regions of the

video image that are representative of portions of the object having a smaller distance between the respective portion of the object and the reference point.

27. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 24 further comprising;
means for artificially generating each remaining region of the video image.

28 (canceled)

29. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 24 wherein the circuitry for generating video data comprises a video camera for monitoring an object to produce one or more video frames and the display is capable of displaying said video frame such that remaining regions of the display video image are less sharp in accordance with the relative distance between said respective portion of said object and said video camera.

30. (canceled)